

Week 15: Good practices in Social Innovation

Good practices are about a process or methodology that has been shown to be effective in one part of at one point and might be effective in another too. There are six steps to understand best practices (David Skyrme Associates. 2008. Best Practices in Best Practices).

The six-step approach includes

1. Identifying users' requirements
 - a. What is the user seeking for
2. Discovering good practices
 - a. Exploring and understanding
3. Documenting good practices
 - a. Taking notes of the positives, and implications
4. Validating good practices
 - a. Using a tool regarding understand feasibility and flexibility
5. Disseminating and applying good practices
 - a. How to do so and what is the best approach
6. Developing a supporting infrastructure
 - a. To sustain, increase and expand

There is another one developed by Dr. Sophie Alkhaled and Prof. Sarah Jack at Lancaster University Management School. It is known as social innovation in marginalized rural areas (SIMRA). It is a seven-step approach to developing social innovation which is

1. Getting ready
 - a. Your take on a certain problem and motivation to find new ways to solving it

- b. Opportunity to act collectively
 - c. Build a team member you trust
 - d. Share task among team members
 - e. Organize your time as a group
 - f. Manage your time and task
 - g. Eg. The Norwegian trekking association played a huge role in integrating refugees through trekking activities with local communities
2. Doing your research
- a. Do your research and engage the community
 - b. why civil society led approach, solo, or collaborative approach
 - c. are others ok with the approach
 - d. go through legal aspects in your region or country
3. Setting your social innovation
- a. What do you have until now (come together for a certain idea)
 - b. What do you need to strategize
 - c. What is it you are looking for (funding, crowd sourcing, etc)
4. Finding initial and sustainable resources
- a. Apply for small grants
 - b. Run a pilot
 - c. Social connection and people skills
5. Monitoring – moving forward, pushing through while keeping track
- a. Keep a record of what is happening
 - b. Monitor and evaluate

- c. Continuous involvement with community
 - d. Good team of supporters
 - e. Develop your presence
6. Organic growth of your social innovation
- a. Empowerment (eg. Education, training, skills building)
 - b. Community of mutual support, accountability, collaboration
7. Evaluation, revitalization, and renewal of your social innovation
- a. Reflect and move forward
 - i. How well are you doing
 - ii. Problems encountered
 - iii. Evaluation and revitalization

Checklist

1. Identifying an issue in the community
2. Establishing the motivation for supporting social innovation
3. Finding a mentor or other similar social innovation
4. Building a team you trust
5. Drawing a context map
6. Extent the community shares your team's vision for Social Innovation
7. Creating a shared value mission statement
8. Researching and applying for appropriate small grant
9. Running a pilot
10. Deciding on what to measure, and how for the pilot
11. Identifying your resources beyond the financial (who can support your social innovation)

12. Nominating a 'scribe'
13. Maintaining continuous involvement of the community by asking for feedback on a regular basis
14. Nominating a board of directors
15. Nominating an accountant
16. Developing a marketing strategy to be visible in your community
17. 5-year plan (flexible, modifiable and adjustable)
18. Revisiting shared value statement created by innovation actors
19. How well are you doing and the problems you have encountered
20. Has the environment changed and are you still an integral part?
21. Necessity to broaden your portfolio of actions
22. Are you struggling to find a way out
23. Usefulness of a 'critical friend' throughout the process

References

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